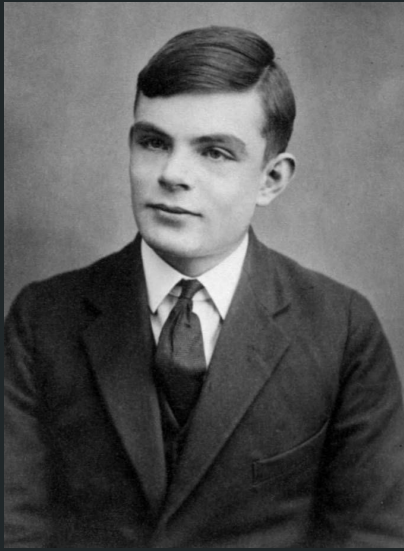
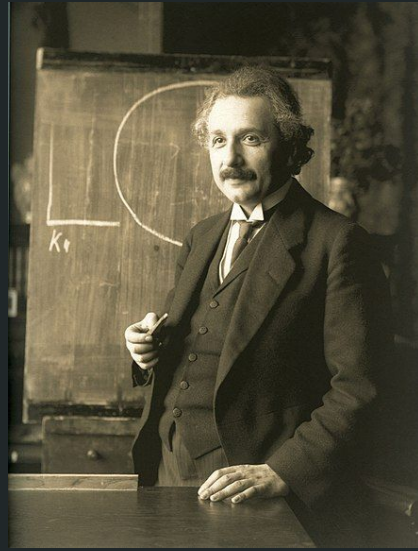


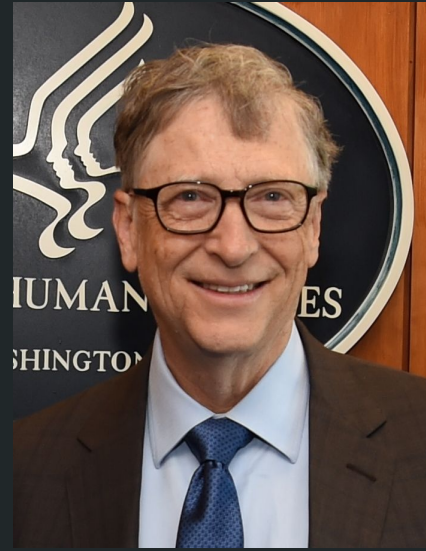
What Makes Someone Weird?



Alan Turing



Albert Einstein



Bill Gates



Satoshi Tajiri

What do these men have in common?

Neurodivergence

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- ◆ Neurodiversity is still somewhat of a taboo topic

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- ◆ Common Divergences
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 - ◆ affects areas of the brain that process language
 - ◇ ADHD
 - ◆ causes attention issues, hyperactivity, and impulsiveness
 - ◇ Tourette Syndrome
 - ◆ causes repetitive movements or unwanted sounds
 - ◇ Clinical Depression
 - ◆ causes depressed mood or loss of interest in activities
 - ◇ Anxiety Disorder
 - ◆ causes worry, anxiety, or fear

Getting Diagnosed

- ◆ Diagnosis is a privilege
- ◆ The easiest way to get diagnosed is to be a white male not in poverty with stereotypical symptoms
 - ◇ Even then misdiagnosis is frequent
- ◆ Self-diagnosis should be taken seriously
 - ◇ Self-diagnosis is not “I can’t get myself to do dishes after school too. I must have ADHD.”
 - ◇ Self-diagnosis is heavy research that leads to having all criteria needed for a formal diagnosis

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- ◆ There are dangerous stims
 - ◇ Hitting themselves
 - ◇ The only reason someone should be corrected for stimming is if they are hurting themselves

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- ◆ THIS IS DANGEROUS
 - ◇ Can cause anxiety and depression
 - ◇ Can cause even more aggression and misunderstandings
 - ◇ IT'S EXHAUSTING

Retracted Language

- ◆ Retarded- THIS IS A SLUR
 - ◇ “Mental Retardation” was a medical term
 - ◇ Turned into a slur for any and all people with learning disabilities
 - ◇ This term was coined in Vineland NJ. I was born at Newcomb Hospital in Vineland NJ. I went to school in Vineland NJ for over a decade. There is no reason you can give me for you to have this word in your vocabulary anymore.

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- ◆ Functioning Labels
 - ◇ This is just stupid
 - ◇ These labels were created to basically say how annoying a person is to neurotypical people
 - ◇ They undercut a person's individuality, struggles, and abilities
 - ◇ The correct language is focusing on support needs

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- ◆ Neurodivergent people need to be taught to be Neurotypical
- ◆ Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy is a good thing
 - ◇ This is basically conversion therapy and like conversion therapy this is traumatizing
 - ◇ The only people that benefit from ABA therapy are the neurotypical people around the person

Is a Neurodiversity a Disability?

Models of Disability

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- ◆ ***The Social Model of Disability***
 - ◇ Sees the issue of "disability" as a socially created problem and a matter of the full integration of individuals into society

Disability Etiquette

- ◆ Most Disabled people hate “people first” language
 - ◇ Idea is to “recognizes that individuals are more than their disabilities”
 - ◇ For most of us, it's part of our identity
 - ◇ It's like saying Emily is a person with blonde haired instead of saying Emily is blonde

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- ◆ DO NOT ASSUME SOMEONE'S ABILITIES
- ◆ LISTEN TO DISABLED PEOPLE
 - ◇ If you are not disabled, your opinion on disability does not matter. You do not know what someone goes through and therefore can not tell a person what is best for them
 - ◇ Do not invalidate disabled people's experiences
 - ◇ Do not make jokes at the expense of disabled people. This is punching down.

Ask me anything about Neurodivergence

- ◆ No judgement
- ◆ Ignorance is ok